[Translation]

Amarnath Pilgrims

3391. SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons missing during Amarnath Yatra in the year 1996-97;

(b) the efforts being made by the Union Government to trace out these missing pilgrims;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance to the families of those who found missing during the Amarnath Yatra;

(d) if so, the details thereof: and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Dr. Nitish K. Sengupta, in his report submitted to the Government on 2.12.1996, has mentioned about the number of persons who had lost their lives during the Amarnath Yatra in August, 1996 as 243. Of the 243 persons reported dead, 174 were identified. The remaining unidentified bodies were cremated at different places after being photographed. In the Sengupta report details of two missing persons during the Amarnath Yatra in August, 1996 have been mentioned.

The photographs of all unidentified cremated bodies were subsequently sent to all the State Governments and were displayed through Doordarshan and National and Regional Newspapers to enable the family members to identify them. As a result, another 17 bodies have since been identified including one of the missing persons mentioned in the report.

(c) to (e) The ex-gratia relief of Rs. 2 lakhs which is being provided in the ratio of 3:1 from Prime Minister's Relief Fund and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir is being disbursed to next of kin of identified deceased pilgrims. Relief is given to the families of only those pilgrims whose death during the yatra have been established by the concerned State Government.

[English]

Amarnath Yatra

3392. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whther the Union Government are aware about the disturbance created by the terrorists during Amarnath Yatra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the safety of the pilgrims of Amarnath?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) Government have no information about any distrurbance created by the terrorists during Amarnath Yatra this year. Yatra has been peaceful. The State Government have reported that every precaution is being taken to ensure safety and security of the Yatris right from Jammu to the Holy Cave and that pickets manned by security forces and J&K Police have been established all along the highway to ensure incident free Yatra.

Infrastructure Facilities

3393. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large percentage of urban population in India has not any access to sanitation and health services;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situtions;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for Ninth Five Year Plan to provide sanitation and health services to all in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) In so far as sanitation is concerned, based on the information received from the State Governments, it has been assessed that about 50% of urban population in India does not have access to sanitation facilities. Sanitation being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide sanitation facilities to the urban areas. However, Union Government endeavours to supplement the efforts of the State Governments through the Centrally sponsored scheme of Urban Low Cost Sanitation for Liberation of Scavengers which has the main objective of converting the existing dry latrines into low cost pour flush latrines and constructing new units where none exist. Under the programme so far 761 schemes covering 1156 towns at a total project cost of Rs. 1062.64 crores have been sanctioned, for conversion/construction of 33,78,879 units.

Regarding health services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has stated that the family welfare services

are being provided through a network of the following institutions in the country :-

i)	District level Post Partum Centres	550
ii)	Sub-district level Post Partum Centres	1012
iii)	Urban Family Welfare Centres	1083
iv)	Health Posts	871

Apart from the above, implementation of health programmes is being carried out through resources allocated to the Sttate Governments directly by the Planning Commission. Central Government has also launched the following major National Health Programmes to augment the work being done by the States :-

(1) National Malaria Eradication Programme.
(2) National Leprosy Eradication Programme.
(3) National Tuberculosis Control Programme.
(4) National Programme for Control of Blindness.
(5) National AIDS Control Programme.
(6) National Family Welfare Programme.

(c) and (d) The outlays and targets for the Ninth Five Year Plan have not yet been finalised.

Kailash Mansarover Yatra

3394. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Journey to Mansarovar Kailash from Uttar Pradesh is difficult;

(b) whether the travellers will not have to walk if the journey starts from Laddakh;

(c) if so, the reason for which journey to Mansarovar Kailash is undertaken via Uttar Pradesh instead of Laddakh;

(d) whether the Government propose to arrange the journey through Laddakh for the convenience of the travellers in future;

(e) if so, by when and the scheme and policy of the Government in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, including the parikramas of Kailash and Mansarovar involves journey by foot or on horseback across mountainous terrain.

(b) Any route used for the Yatra and parikrama will involve journey by foot or on horseback due to the mountainous terrain and the nature of the Yatra.

(c) In terms of the bilateral agreement between India and China in 1981, the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is conducted through the Lipulekh Pass in Uttar Pradesh.

(d) to (f) Government has taken up the issue of opening additional routes for conducting the pilgrimage, including through Ladakh. These proposals are under discussion with the Chinese Government.

Slum Areas in Chandigarh

3395. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are large slum areas in Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details of total population in slum areas and number of Jhuggies therein;

(c) whether the basic facilities like water, electricity, schools, dispensary etc. have been provided in these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to provide the basic facilities to Jhuggis dwellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) As per the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

1. Colony No. 4, Industrial Area Phase-I.
2. Janat Colony, Sector-25.
3. Kumhar Colony, Sector-25.
4. Madrasi Colony, Sector-26.
5. Gwala Colony, Near Railway Bridge.
6. Randhawa Colony, Near Railway Crossing.
7. Labour Colony, Sector-31C.
8. Labour Colony, Sector-53, near Village Kajheri.
9. Labour Colony, near village Karsan, Phase-II.
10. Labour Colony, village Palsora.
11. Kuldip Colony, Sector-52.
12. Adarsh Colony, Sector-54.
13. Sukhnagar Colony, Sector-52.
14. Pandit Colony, Sector-52.

Water supply, by the way of drinking water taps has been made in various colonies. The further steps proposed to be taken are :-

i) Tubewells are to be installed in various colonies.

ii) Underground reservoirs are proposed to be constructed.

iii) Sewer line in place of open system is being laid in various colonies.